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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,698	09/12/2003	Tsutomu Ohishi	242743US2	7671
22850	7590	04/10/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			YALEW, FIKREMARIA M A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2136

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/10/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/10/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/660,698	OHISHI ET AL.
	Examiner Fikremariam Yalew	Art Unit 2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/08/2006, 02/04/2004</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-50 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohishi (US Pub No 20030028753 A1)

4. As per claims 1 and 15: Ohishi teaches an image forming apparatus/method in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising:

a use control part for receiving one or more authentication results from one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for one or more applications according to the received one or more authentication results(See Fig 2 step 101, Fig 4B and 0043,0150,0127 (i.e., controller, password)).

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5. As per claim 2 and 16: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the use control part refers to information indicating one or more authentication parts that correspond to an application, causes the one or more authentication parts to perform authentication process when the application is used, and sends an authentication result to the application (See Fig 11 steps s42-46 and 0109-0111,0150).

3. As per claim 3 and 17: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the use control part refers to information indicating one or more applications that correspond to an authentication part, and sends an authentication result of the authentication part to an application in the one or more applications when the application is used (See Fig 11 steps s42-46 and 0109-0111).

4. As per claim 4 and 18: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the use control part includes a part for controlling use restriction for a function of the application (See 0109-0111).

5. As per claim 5 and 19: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed wherein the use control part sends an authentication result indicating success of authentication to the one or more applications only when authentication by all of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 14 steps s94).

6. As per claim 6 and 20: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed wherein the use restriction part sends an authentication result indicating success of authentication to the one or more applications when authentication by at least one authentication part in the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 14 steps s94).

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7. As per claim 7 and 21: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed wherein each of the one or more authentication part is an application or an apparatus connected to the image forming apparatus (See Fig 2 steps 1,2).

8. As per claim 8 and 22: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the authentication part performs authentication by using user authentication information input by a user and user authentication information registered beforehand (See Fig s14 and Fig 14 step s94 and 0036).

9. As per claim 9 and 23: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the authentication part performs authentication by using billing information input by a user and available billing information registered beforehand (See Fig 10 step s12 and 0036).

10. As per claim 10 and 24: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus the image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes, and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the hardware resources, wherein the image forming apparatus is configured so as to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the control services, and the image forming apparatus includes the use control part as a control service(See Fig 2 steps 1,2).

11. As per claim 11 and 25: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus the authentication part comprising: a user information input part for a user to input user identification information and user authentication information (See FIG 14 Steps s91-93); an external server communication part for sending the user identification information input by the user to an external server, and receiving user authentication

information corresponding to the user identification information from the external server(See 0134 and claim 22); and a part for determining whether the user authentication information received from the external server is the same as the user authentication information input by the user, and sending a determination result to the use control part(See S95-96 and 0036).

12. As per claim 12 and 26: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the authentication part comprising: a user information receiving part for receiving, from a client terminal, user identification information and first billing information indicating usage of the image forming apparatus by a user (See FIG 14 Steps s91-93); an external server communication part for sending the user identification information to an external server, and receiving second billing information corresponding to the user identification information from the external server(See 0134 and claim 22); a billing process part for comparing the first billing information received from the client terminal with the second billing information received from the external server, and sends a comparing result to the use control part(See S95-96 and 0036).

13. As per claims 13 and 27: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the client terminal reads the user identification information and the first billing information from an external recording medium, and the user information receiving part receives the user identification information and the first billing information from the client terminal (See Fig 14 steps S91-92 and 0025).

14. As per claims 14 and 28: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus as wherein the external server is a LDAP server on a network (See 0134-0135).

15. As per claim 29: Ohishi teaches an image forming apparatus in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising: a display part for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more applications for an authentication part, in which user authentication by the authentication part is applied to use of the one or more applications (See 0015 and Fig 4A 4B(i.e., screen password)); and a use control part for receiving an authentication result from the authentication part, and controlling use restriction for the one or more applications according to the authentication result((See Fig 2 step 101, Fig 4b and 0150,0127 (i.e., controller, password)).

16. As per claim 30: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein information input from the screen is stored in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more applications corresponding to the authentication part (See 0036-0037).

17. As per claim 31: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in wherein the display part displays a screen for selecting one or more functions of an application to which user authentication by the authentication part is applied (See Fig 4A).

18. As per claim 32: Oshish teaches an image forming apparatus in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus comprising: a display part for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more authentication parts for an application, in which user authentication by the one or more authentication parts can be applied to use of the

application (See 0015,0033); and a use control part for receiving one or more authentication results from the one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for the application according to the one or more authentication results(See 0034,0043).

19. As per claim 33: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein information input from the screen is stored in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more authentication parts corresponding to the application (See 0036-0037).
20. As per claim 34: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the display part displays a screen for setting relationship among the one or more authentication parts (See 0022,0033).
21. As per claim 35: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the display part displays a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds only if authentication by all of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 14 steps S94-96).
22. As per claim 36: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the display part displays a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds if authentication by at least one of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 14 steps S94-96).
23. As per claim 37: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus wherein the authentication part performs authentication by using user authentication information input by a user and user authentication information registered beforehand(See Fig s14

and Fig 14 step s94 and 0036).

24. As per claim 38: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the authentication part performs authentication by using billing information input by a user and available billing information registered beforehand (See Fig s14 and Fig 14 step s94 and 0036).

25. As per claim 39: Ohishi teaches the image forming apparatus the image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes, and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the hardware resources, wherein the image forming apparatus is configured so as to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the control services, and the image forming apparatus includes the use control part and the display part as a control service(See 0033,0041).

26. As per claim 40: Ohishi teaches a use control method for an application in an image forming apparatus in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the use control method comprising: a display step for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more applications for an authentication part, in which user authentication by the authentication part is applied to use of the one or more applications (See 0015,0033); and a use control step for receiving an authentication result from the authentication part, and controlling use restriction for the one or more applications according to the authentication result(See 0034,0043).

27. As per claim 41: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein information input from the screen is stored in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more applications corresponding to the authentication part (See 0036-0037).
28. As per claim 42: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein the image forming apparatus displays a screen for selecting one or more functions of an application to which user authentication by the authentication part is applied (See 0022,0033).
29. As per claim 43: Ohishi teaches a use control method for an application in an image forming apparatus in which a plurality of applications can be installed, the use control method comprising: a display step for displaying a screen, on an operation panel of the image forming apparatus, for selecting one or more authentication parts for an application, in which user authentication by the one or more authentication parts can be applied to use of the application (See 0015,0033); and a use control step for receiving one or more authentication results from the one or more authentication parts, and controlling use restriction for the application according to the one or more authentication results(See 0034,0043).
30. As per claim 44: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein information input from the screen is stored in the image forming apparatus as information indicating the one or more authentication parts corresponding to the application (See Fig 14 steps S94-96).

31. As per claim 45: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein the image forming apparatus displays a screen for setting relationship among the one or more authentication parts (See 0022,0033).
32. As per claim 46: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein the image forming apparatus displays a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds only if authentication by all of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 14 steps S94-96).
33. As per claim 47: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein the image forming apparatus displays a screen for setting information indicating that user authentication for use of the application succeeds if authentication by at least one of the one or more authentication parts succeeds (See Fig 14 steps S94-96).
34. As per claim 48: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein the authentication part performs authentication by using user authentication information input by a user and user authentication information registered beforehand (See Fig s14 and Fig 14 step s94 and 0036).
35. As per claim 49: Ohishi teaches the use control method wherein the authentication part performs authentication by using billing information input by a user and available billing information registered beforehand (See Fig s14 and Fig 14 step s94 and 0036).
36. As per claim 50: Ohishi teaches the use control method the image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes, and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the

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hardware resources, wherein the image forming apparatus is configured so as to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the control services, and the display step and the use control step are performed by a control service(See Fig 2 steps 1,2)

Conclusion

37. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO 892.
38. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fikremariam Yalew whose telephone number is 5712723852. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Moazzami Nasser,can be reached on 5712738300. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-4195.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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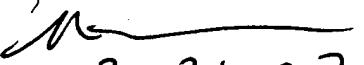
Fikremariam Yalew

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FA

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3,31,07